(b) Nagercoil
(c) Pudukottai
(d) Ramanathapuram
(e) Salem
(f) Sivaganga
16.- Thanjavur
(a) Theni
(b) Tiruchy
(c) Tirunelveli
(d) Tiruvannamalai
(e) Tuticorin
(f) Vellore
(g) Villupuram
(h) Virudhunagar

Speed Post booking facilities are also available in the following District Headquarters 1. Tiruvarur, 2. Namakkal, 3. Perambalur, 4. Udagamandalam.

(b) The only District Headquarters without Speed Post Service is Tiruvellore. This District came into existence very recently. Speed Post Service is extended to the places/District Headquarters if it is economically viable and operationally feasible.

Phone on Demand

25. SHRI SAN J AY DALMIA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(2) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'phone on demand to remain a dream' appearing in the "Indian Express" dated January 10, 1997;

(3) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(4) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Telecom. Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connections on demand by 1997 with Private Sector supplementing the efforts of Department of Telecommunications. However, there has been a delay in the entry of the Private Sector in the field of basic services and thus the objective of providing telephone on demand by 1997 was not possible. Department of Telecommunications has submitted 9th Five Year Plan Proposals to the planning Commission for approval which envisages to provide telephone on demand during 9th Five Year Plan with Private Sector supplementing the efforts of the Government.

Agreement with Germany on MoU to Telecom

26. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Germany have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on telecom recently;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions involved therein;

(c) whether any agreement has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASASD VARMA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Federal Republic of Germany have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 2nd September 1997 for co-operation in the field of Telecommunications.

The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to develop the ongoing technical and scientific co-operation to ensure the improvement and development of new communications technology. The specific areas of co-operation are (1) Regulation, (2) Standardisation, (3) Management of